

With all these efforts, the nations of this region are answering the threats of the 21st century. And in doing so, we are laying the foundation of security and peace for generations to come. In the long run, the surest path to security is the expansion of liberty and freedom. History shows that free societies are peaceful societies. Democracies do not attack each other. Governments accountable to voters focus on building roads and schools, not weapons of mass destruction. Young people who have a say in their future are less likely to search for meaning in extremism. And nations that commit to freedom for their people don't support terrorists and extremists but, in fact, will join together to defeat them.

America is committed to advancing freedom and democracy as the great alternatives to repression and radicalism. We will take the side of democratic leaders and reformers. We will support the voices of tolerance and moderation across the world. We will stand with the mothers and fathers in every culture who want to see their children grow up in a caring and peaceful society.

We recognize that every democracy will reflect the unique culture and history of its people. Yet we recognize that there are universal freedoms, that there are God-given rights for every man, woman, and child on the face of this Earth. The people of Asia have faith in the power of freedom because you've seen freedom transform nations across your continent.

At the beginning of World War II, this side of the Pacific had only two democracies: Australia and New Zealand. Today, millions of Asians live in freedom. Freedom has unleashed the creative talents of people throughout Asia. Freedom has helped prosperity sweep across the region.

In all that lies ahead, the people of this region will have a partner in the American Government and a friend in the American people. Together the people of America and Asia have endured dark and uncertain hours. Together we've seen modern nations rise from the rubble of war and launch dynamic economies that are the envy of the world. Together we will confront the challenges of the new century and build a more hopeful

and peaceful and prosperous future for our children and our grandchildren.

I appreciate your hospitality. Thank you for letting me come by and share some thoughts with you. May God bless the people of Singapore.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:04 p.m. in the University Cultural Centre Theatre. In his remarks, he referred to Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore, and his wife, Tan Choo Leng; and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore.

### **Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore in Singapore**

*November 16, 2006*

**President Bush.** Thank you all. Mr. Prime Minister and Ms. Lee, thank you very much for your gracious hospitality. Laura and I are thrilled to be back here. I'm always amazed when I think about Singapore, a country that wasn't supposed to be; a part of the world where people basically said, "There's no chance for the good folks to survive and thrive." I'm amazed at your successes, and I appreciate the values on which your successes rest.

I congratulate the people of Singapore for being such a vivid example of enterprise and markets and hard work. I congratulate the Government for being visionary in its leadership. And I am thrilled that you allowed me to give a speech at one of your fine universities, talking about the importance of the Far East to the future of the United States.

I thank you very much for serving that meat. [*Laughter*] It was so good, it had to be from Texas. [*Laughter*]

The Prime Minister and I have had a lot of discussions about a variety of issues, and I shared with them one of my chief concerns, that our country would become—could possibly become isolationist and protectionist. In my speech today to the university, Mr. Prime Minister, I assured the listeners that it is in our interest to remain engaged in the world. It's in our economic interests and it's in our national interests that the United States work

with strong friends and allies such as Singapore to spread prosperity and hope and to work to lay the foundations for peace.

Mr. Prime Minister, I appreciate your clear vision of the threats that we face. I appreciate the fact that you see the ideological struggle before us. I cannot think of a more steadfast leader in you, and your willingness to make the hard steps necessary to deal with this challenge today so that our children won't have to deal with it in more severe terms tomorrow.

I'm proud to call you friend. Laura and I are proud to be in your presence. May God bless you and your important country.

**Prime Minister Lee.** Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:26 p.m. at the Istana. In his remarks, he referred to Ho Ching, wife of Prime Minister Lee. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Lee. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## **Proclamation 8084—National Family Week, 2006**

*November 16, 2006*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Families are indispensable to a stable and free society. They pass along the traditions and principles that help make America compassionate, decent, and hopeful. During National Family Week, we honor our families and recognize their contributions to keeping our country strong.

Today's fast-changing world needs the anchor of values and virtues that families can provide. Strong families instill responsibility and character in our children and teach them the ideals that make us a great Nation. Through their love and sacrifice, America's parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and other family members help prepare our

young people to realize the bright future America offers each child.

My Administration is committed to ensuring that our children grow up in loving, stable homes. Earlier this year, I signed legislation that creates new grants for faith-based and community organizations to support healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. By reducing the marriage penalty and doubling the child tax credit, we have also provided important tax relief that helps parents to support and provide for their families.

During National Family Week and throughout the year, we also extend our appreciation and support to our courageous military families, who have borne the hardships of war with dignity and devotion. Our Nation has remained strong and free because the brave men and women of our Armed Forces defend this country and our beliefs. By supporting their loved ones in uniform, our military families are also serving our country, and America is grateful for their service and sacrifice.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 19 through November 25, 2006, as National Family Week. I invite the States, communities, and all the people of the United States to join together in observing this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's families.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 20, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 17, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 21.